

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the subject application has been examined. By this Amendment, changes have been made in the specification to overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections and more concisely claim and describe the present invention. Claims 8-23 remain in the application for reconsideration. The Examiner's allowance of these claims in response to the amendments and remarks set forth herein is earnestly solicited.

MATTERS RELATED TO THE SPECIFICATION

As required, the Applicants have added a reference to the patent application as indicated above. The information concerning the benefit of this priority claim was recognized by the Office, as shown by its inclusion on the first Filing Receipt issued by the Office. Thus, the inclusion of this language complies with the applicable rules.

MATTERS RELATED TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 8, 9 and 23 are rejected under the doctrine of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,367.

To overcome this rejection, the Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer as Attachment 1 hereto. As the Terminal Disclaimer indicates, there is unity of inventory in the instant application and the '367 patent, and both have been assigned to the same entity. Thus, it is believed that the Terminal Disclaimer will be effective to overcome this rejection.

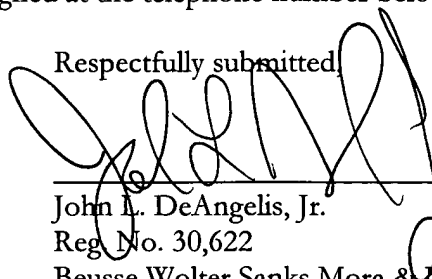
The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10-22. However, the Applicants believe that claims 10-22 are now in condition for allowance based on the Terminal Disclaimer with respect to claim 8, from which claims 10-22 depend. Thus, the re-writing of these claims is held in abeyance pending the Examiner's reconsideration of the allowance of claim 8 from which they depend.

The Applicants have attempted to comply with all of the points raised in the Office Action and it is believed that the remaining claims in the application, i.e., 8-23, are now in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing discussion and submittal of the Terminal Disclaimer, it is requested that the Examiner's claim rejections have been overcome. It is

respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider these rejections and objections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all the claims pending in the application.

If a telephone conference will assist in clarifying or expediting this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

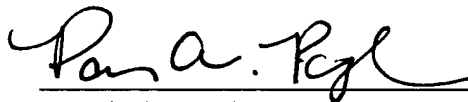
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Amendment is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 27 day of February, 2006.



Pamela A. Pagel